

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-11 AID-05 /075 W

----- 126982

R 251100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7464

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0673

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: YAR CABINET SHIFTS

1. YAR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ABDALLAH BARAKAT WAS REPLACED YESTERDAY 25 FEBRUARY BY MINCOMMO ABDAL LATIF DAYFALLAH. COMMUNICATIONS JOB WAS IN TURN GIVEN TO AN ARMY LT. COL. HUSSEIN GHAFARY WHO MOST RECENTLY HAD BEEN THE MILITARY ATTACHE TO IRAN.

2. BARAKAT'S FALL FROM GRACE HAD BEEN PRESAGED BY THE REMOVAL OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS FROM HIS CONTROL IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. MININT YUSUFI FOR INSTANCE HAS BEEN HANDLING SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH TRIBAL LEADERS AND LARGE, FOREIGN-FINANCED FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF BARAKAT'S HANDS AND VESTED IN AN INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY WHICH REPORTED DIRECTLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. BARAKAT WAS FREQUENTLY RUMORED NOT RPT NOT TO GET ALONG WELL WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. BARAKAT, A VERY TOUGH ZAYDI TRIBE FROM THE KHAULAN, WAS CLEARLY ILL AT EASE WORKING WITH THE VERY SOMEWHAT DERACINATED TECHNOCRAT OF SHAFAI EXTRACTION WHO SERVES AS PRIME MINISTERX

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3. COMMENT: DESPITE SIGNS OF WANING, SHIFT COMES
AS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE TO EMBASSY, AND MAYBE
TO BARAKAT, CHARGE SAW BARAKAT DAY OF ANNOUNCEMENT
BUT GOT NO RPT NO INDICATION FROM HIM THAT
CHANGE WAS IMMINENT. BARAKAT IS ANOTHER HIGHLY
COMPETENT ZAYDI POLITICIAN OF THE SORT WHICH, CAITICS
SAY, HAMDI FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO GET ALONG. DAYFALLAH
IS BY CONTRAST A JOURNEYMAN POLITICAIN WHO HAS
SERVED FAUTE D'EMEAUX IN WIDE VARIETY OF YARG POSITIONS
OVER LONG PERIOD OF TIME. DAYFALLAH, HOWEVER, WAS
NEVER CITED FOR COMPETENCE WHILE BARAKAT HAD STRONG
QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP AND PROBABLY AMBITION.
FOR THESE REASONS EMBASSY WILL PROCEED WITH PLANS
TO SEND BARAKAT TO STATES AS LEADER
GRANTEE LATER THIS SPRING.
RANSOM

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